



Pastor's Reflections

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

August begins my sixth month serving as your settled senior pastor. What I felt coming here on my first day in March is still true today: God has brought us together for such a time as this. There's really no other way I know to explain it. As I begin my sixth month serving, I remain thankful and joyful because God has called us to be together on this journey of faith. As I look back on these first six months, I see how much we have experienced together. We have given thanks for the lives of God's saints Carolyn Horst and John Staton. We have married a young couple who live in the neighborhood. We have officially installed me as your pastor---what a grand celebration with over 40 clergy in the processional, including retired minister of the congregation Rev. Dick Clough. Thank you for the beautiful gift of the handmade red and rainbow colored stole. I love it and will enjoy wearing it for years to come. We heard a rousing installation sermon from the Rev. Traci Blackmon (listen to it on our website, it's worth hearing again). She asked us how we are being called to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God ***now*** that we are here together on this journey. Answering this question is a large part of the work we are called to do together.

We have begun to think about being more accessible and inclusive in our worship space for people of all ages, specifically children who desire to worship with us, so we made plans to experiment with a pray-ground. We have met in small groups to dream and vision together about our future. We hosted the Lenten Men's Breakfast series. We hosted a Mental Health Sunday and learned about how we can be a "life saving church" and help prevent suicide. We hosted a courtroom drama as an official part of Indianapolis' PRIDE Festival with over 50 guests, most from outside the church, and we marched in the PRIDE parade and hosted a booth. We hosted families who are experiencing homelessness. We have launched a fund raising campaign for \$60,000 to support the installation of solar panels on the roof of the church with excellent leadership from the Green Team, led by Rich Gibson. We have received a gift of \$50,000 to the Foundation to support education through experiences at Chautauqua for church members. We have revisited our long-range strategic planning, working with our church council and our boards. We have welcomed a new administrative assistant, Shannon Abbott.

We have continued to do so many other things, improving the church grounds, including a vibrant and beautiful new church sign and new mailbox on the street. The pastor's office has been completely renovated with tons of hard work by church volunteers led by Wendy Baldwin. We have begun to think about our music and our worship, seeking to grow and improve our time together on Sundays with uplifting music and creative worship experiences. We are exploring what it means to be a Just Peace church. We are working to strengthen our endowment through the ministry of the Foundation, with an exciting new opportunity for planned giving for the church.

I want to give special thanks to the transition team members (Randy Walker, Nancy Dickinson, Lianna Campos, Jim Rutherford) who have provided additional support to me in these important first six months as we get to know each other. They continue to be people who offer caring and thoughtfulness as we seek to strengthen and grow in our faith journey together. Working with our

moderator Karen Walker is a joy as she has stepped into leading the church with wisdom, enthusiasm, faithfulness and compassion as we look towards the future. I am thankful for all of our church leaders, for those who serve as Board Chairs and for those who serve on Church Council and as Officers of the church. This is not an exhaustive list and I know there are important areas that I have not included yet, please forgive any omissions...as I reflect on our first six months together, my heart is warmed by all that God is doing in, through, and sometimes, in spite, of us. The Spirit is here, guiding us forward. I am excited to see where the next six months brings us. Thank you for being on this journey together!

With gratitude for yesterday, grace for today and hope for tomorrow,
Pastor Sarah
(386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org

Moderator's Reflections

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

This summer I find myself looking both forwards and backwards! The council and boards have started thinking strategically about our future. Shannon, our new office administrator, has started and brings fresh eyes to the office practices. At the same time, working in the office has gotten us started cleaning out files – watching for any historic treasures – and finding many familiar names involved in and running all different aspects of church life over the last many decades. Marion's work on her book on the church history has also brought up a lot of memories. Combing through my parents and grandmothers papers and photos has stirred even more personal reflections of our church as they were all so closely connected here. At this point in my journey I feel able to cherish it all and be focused on the amazement of the journeys taken to get us to today. I find comfort in the paradox that brings us the saying "the more things change the more they stay the same". Changes we may be dealing with this year are similar to those we have met before, but we know we can grow through them with prayerful discernment. Most importantly, the core of who we are as a church has stayed remarkably consistent, even as we adapt to meet current needs.

Some examples come to mind: Over 20 years ago this congregation did the hard work to become a declared ONA (Open and Affirming) congregation. Now we are embarking on another journey to decide if we want to declare ourselves a "Just Peace" congregation. We have done many different programs with children and youth, including the somewhat controversial 'sex' education series "Our Whole Lives", and now we are embarking on another experiment – incorporating children into worship with a "prayground" in the sanctuary – to be set up in September. We have had a variety of mental health advocacy programs in the past and there is a new platform for that, WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged), which we shall consider later on. Our core, following God's call and the teachings of Jesus, continues to give us the strength and conviction to look at the community and the world with fresh eyes, and bravely step into changes that we choose as a community.

Karen Walker
317-319-8950 or Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

New Office Administrator: Welcome Shannon!



Having grown up as a minister's daughter in the church, our new Administrative Assistant, Shannon Abbott, brings much experience of the church to her work. Shannon grew up in mostly in Kentucky and Alabama before going off to Greenville College in Illinois. At Greenville she majored in Sociology and Religion and also met her husband, Chad. Shannon and Chad married at the end of college and moved to New Jersey where she studied at Princeton Theological Seminary and Rutgers University, receiving both her M.Div and MSW. Shannon spent time in her early career working as a social worker in hospital settings and in mental health and addictions centers.

In 2005, Shannon moved to Indianapolis with her family and it was here in Indy that she fell in love with yoga and full body wellness. She completed her yoga teacher training in 2008 and opened her own wellness business, which would eventually include not only yoga, but massage, reiki, and essential oils. She moved back to Kentucky for six years as her husband took a call in the UCC and she moved her business with her. In the past year, Shannon moved back to Indianapolis with her family and has been quickly connecting her love of yoga and wellness in the wider Indianapolis community. Now that she has the unique opportunity to work with us here at First Congregational, Shannon brings her love of wellness, building community, and love of the church to the task and has already begun seeing just "how caring of a community First Congregational is."

Shannon lives on the southeast side of Indianapolis with her husband, Chad, children Isabel and Solomon, and scruffy dog, Zoe. She is a lifetime lover of rocks, music, nature, and the mystical spirit of faith. She is a member of St. Peter's UCC in Carmel, IN and finds joy in spending time with family and friends, outside, and relaxing with a good book or movie.

Shannon's office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Her email address is shannon@fcindy.org

Music Staff

June 10 was Nick Fennig's last Sunday serving as the organist for our church. Over the past few years, Nick provided inspiring and moving music for our traditional worship service, as well as helped lead our music ministries. We wish him all the best as he moves forward in his journey, offering our prayers and hopes for his future success. His exceptional talents and generous, kind spirit will be greatly missed. The music committee is working on interim plans and will be making recommendations to the personnel committee for moving forward. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sarah.

August 19 "Just Peace" Guest Preacher Rev. Chip Jahn

First Congregational Church is pleased to host Rev. Paul ("Chip") Jahn on August 19. Upon graduating with an M. Div. from Eden Seminary in 1979, he received a call from St. Peter's and Trinity United Church of Christ where he has continued to be pastor.

Chip made his first trip to Sri Lanka in 1988 at the request of Conference Minister, Ralph Quellhorst and was asked to chair the IKC/Sri Lankan Partnership in 1990. This partnership was organized following the visit of Daniel and Thaya Thiagarajah, missionaries to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference the previous year. Organizing the International Working Group on Sri Lanka in 1991, he became the chair in 1995. He was elected to the Board of the Asia Pacific Center for Justice and Peace in 1996 and its chair in 1998. Chip also worked to organize and serve on the United Church of Christ Just Peace Steering Committee.

Just Peace Team Formed

A "Just Peace" Team has been formed. Its task is to write a proposal for a Just Peace covenant for First Congregational UCC which will be presented in the fall, discussed, rewritten if necessary, and voted on at our annual meeting in January. This team consists of Nancy Dickinson, Rich Gibson, Worth Hartman, Jim Rutherford and Janet Selby.

Celebrate with Us


JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

Marion's
90th
Birthday!

Saturday, August 25
Open House
1:00-4:00

Marquette Senior Living Community
4th Floor Card Room
8140 Township Line Road
Indianapolis

RSVP by August 11
Shirley Dickey
shirley.dickey@me.com




How do you know Marion? What are your favorite memories of your times together? The enclosed card will give you an opportunity to share your thoughts with her! Bring this to the party, or mail it to one of us.

In lieu of gifts, Marion would appreciate a donation to
First Congregational Church
7171 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

We are all looking forward to celebrating our wonderful mother with you!

Kathy, Shirley, John, Beth, and David

 Snapfish



The Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the
United Church of Christ

will install

in the office of Conference Minister

**THE REVEREND
CHAD R. ABBOTT**

AUGUST 25, 2018  3:00 P.M. EDT

Sweeney Chapel
Christian Theological Seminary
1000 W. 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN

Reception to follow



Installation for New Indiana-Kentucky UCC Conference Minister

Rev. Chad Abbott gave the "Charge for the Congregation" on June 10 for Pastor Sarah's installation service supporting her, our church and the UCC as the newly nominated Indiana Kentucky Conference minister. His own installation service to that position is on Saturday, August 25th and Pastor Sarah will be providing an invocation, Wendy Baldwin will be participating as she led the search committee to fill that position, and Sean Baker will be contributing to the music of the service. See the invitation for details - a great opportunity to come together as a conference to celebrate another wonderful hire!

Sunday Adult Class

All classes meet in the Library (room 212) at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome!

Invitation to join the lively sessions on "Just Peace" Sundays at 9:45 a.m. during the month of August. So many ideas! So much to talk about! During August we will be continuing our sessions on Just Peace, with Paul ("Chip" as some of us know him) Jahn leading us on August 19.

The last Sunday of the month, the 26th, we hope to have Katie Booth share with us what we need to know in preparation for the presentation after church from Family Promise. Why is our participation in this program which really stretches our "people power" twice a year so important?

New Creation Worship

Coming to New Creation –

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....

So begins the Star Wars saga – a phrase instantly recognized by millions since 1977. As one of the film series' many fans, theologian John McDowell has written a book, [The Gospel According to Star Wars: Faith, Hope, and the Force](#), that examines the relationship between the Star Wars story arc and Christian teachings and principles. During August this book and the Star Wars story will be the focus of New Creation worship. From McDowell's perspective, the overarching theme of the series – specifically the first six episodes – is the redemptive power of love, so that will be our worship theme as well.

In reading the book it soon became apparent to the New Creation Team that viewing the films in conjunction with the book study was a must-do. So in that spirit we will offer opportunities for all to enjoy some of the movies (again or for the first time) on Sunday evenings following New Creation worship. Our "movie festival" schedule will be:

- August 5 – *Revenge of the Sith (Episode III)*
- August 12 – *The Empire Strikes Back (Episode V)*
- August 19 – *Return of the Jedi (Episode VI)*

Each film viewing will be in preparation for the following week's worship service.

Please join us for this unique opportunity to revisit this classic tale and to explore a new perspective on it.

New Creation worship will continue its exploration of how to be good disciples of the Resurrected Christ in today's world. Watch for details in weekly e-pistles. All are welcome to participate in this casual but authentic worship experience.

Double Buzzes on August 26 on Family Promise Hosting

Whether you've been involved with FCC's Family Promise hosting already or are new and wondering what it really involves, the August Buzzes are for you. We will have two Buzzes that day—one following a pitch-in lunch after Traditional worship and the other after New Creation worship at 6:30 p.m., with heavy snacks.

Mike Chapuran, Executive Director of Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, will conduct a workshop on family hosting, helping us understand better what their expectations of us are and how best to interact with our guests. Each hosting week involves at least 60 church members, and we hope everyone who participates is informed and comfortable with the experience. This is your best opportunity to refresh your understanding or learn for the first time. Please plan to attend one session on August 26 and come with your questions.

Support for our Nicaraguan friends

Nicaragua is in a time of civil unrest that began on April 19, with a peaceful protest against unjust laws made by president Daniel Ortega. Many, including students and journalists were shot by the police. Despite efforts for a peaceful resolution, the violence continues. CEPAD (Council of Christian Churches in Nicaragua) asks its partners to share what is going on, write letters, support organizations that are struggling, and pray for peace. FCC sent \$1,000 to CEPAD to continue its work and the church council sent the following letter to President Ortega. To read the updates that Damaris Albuquerque, the executive director of CEPAD sends, go to <https://www.cepadnica.org/> and click on News.

June 25, 2018

Mr. President of the Republic of Nicaragua
Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Subject: End to the Violence

Dear President Ortega,

Receive warm wishes from First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. We are writing to you because we are concerned about the current situation in Nicaragua. We have seen a lot of pain and indignation due to the violence in Nicaragua that has left more than 300 dead, hundreds wounded, an undetermined number of people detained and disappeared, damage to public and private property and hindrance of access to public roads which has left the population completely helpless.

Our church has had partnerships with seven communities and a church in Nicaragua since 2000, after the destruction of hurricane Mitch. Daily, we receive communications from our brothers and sisters there who fear for the safety of their families and friends. Presently, we are unable to visit these communities because there is no security for us or for the Nicaraguans that we planned to accompany as they work to achieve sustainability, Mr. President. You are responsible for governing Nicaragua. We are making an urgent call for you to do what is right to stop the violence, the deaths, the looting, to comply with the recommendations made by the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights and to reestablish order and tranquility to the country.

We wish to express our sincere hope for a peaceful resolution to the current situation facing your country. We urge you, President Ortega, to mobilize all segments of Nicaraguan society to work toward the restoration of democratic institutions in Nicaragua.

Sincerely,

Church Council
First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Call to Service

"Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8"

August Mission of the Month – Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity

Celebrating 30 years of providing strength, stability, and independence through home ownership, in 2017 5650 GIHH volunteers built or rehabbed 26 homes and repaired 63. A study by the Sagamore Institute revealed that Habitat homeowners benefit in many ways. Chronic housing-related illnesses decrease. 71% of homeowners started, completed, or plan

to complete higher education or professional training. Homeowners end or reduce their dependence on public assistance programs like Public Housing Assistance, Utility Bill/Energy Assistance, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance (SNAP), Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF), and aid to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

FCC has supported Habitat for over 20 years financially and through volunteer hours on builds. Please give generously in August to support Greater Indy Habitat. Single dollar bills in the offering plate will go to Habitat. For larger amounts please use the Special Offering envelopes noting "Habitat" or put that in the notation line of your check. Thank you!

Pantry Items of the Month

During August, we are collecting the following items: Beans, Canned peaches, Canned pears, Jelly and Jam and Bathroom Tissue.

-Betty Schnur

Thank You for Your Generosity

Instead of waiting till the end of the year, the Board for Outreach and Service wishes to say a big "Thank you" now to the congregation for its generosity in the Mission of the Month offerings so far this year. Below are listed the recipients and amounts for each month. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway for "thank you" letters from these organizations which depend on our support, and keep up the good work as the year goes along!

Jan., Peace Learning Center	\$652.46
Feb., Indiana Youth Group	\$606.45
Mar., One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,671.79
Apr., Exodus Refugee Immigration	\$1,210.88
May, Family Promise	\$478.31
June, Strengthen the Church	\$855.85

In addition to the above amounts, \$1,000 has been sent to CEPAD, the organization in Nicaragua with which we partner, to cope with the loss of income and other problems caused by the current unrest in that country. This money comes from the Nicaragua Fund and the expenditure was approved by the Nicaragua Team and the Board.

"Chain Saw" Work Day – Saturday, Aug 18, 9am--Noon

The honeysuckle has taken over the edges of our drive way, parking lot, and other areas. We are going to take out as much as we can, and also plan to have a chipper onsite, to make mulch out of all the wood debris.

There are also several indoor cleaning jobs that need attention, if that is more your speed.

Let's make this a fun time of sharing fellowship and sweat equity, even if your role is to simply help with refreshments. In particular, we are in need of chain saws, and their people. If you can come or have questions, please contact Wendy Baldwin, or fill out the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Our Food Donations to the Northside Pantry

In June we donated sixty -pounds of nutritious food to the Northside Food Pantry. Our donations are promptly passed along to our northside neighbors who lack the food security that most of us have. Those of us who contribute can pat ourselves on the back for our contributions. Well done! Let's keep it going and possibly even pick up the volume a little this month. Thanks!

New Chautauqua Grant

Have you heard about the Chautauqua Institute? A number of congregants, including Jackie and Rich Gibson, have attended one or more of its weeklong sessions. Some of us go every year. The church is about to reveal the details of a grant by an anonymous member who will pay for one member of FCC to attend Chautauqua every year—or two every other year. But what is Chautauqua, and why should you be excited about going there?

The Chautauqua Institute is a small, gated community on the shore of Lake Chautauqua, NY. It began as a summer camp for Methodist Sunday School teachers in 1874. It is filled with small houses, cottages, hotels and apartment houses. Practically every American religious denomination has a house there with an attached chapel. The community is centered on a village green, which is surrounded by a few cafes, stores, and an excellent book shop. If you're momentarily worn out by all the activities, the green makes an excellent spot to recharge your batteries with an ice cream cone. Plenty of benches in both sun and shade allow you to relax and enjoy the sight of bicyclers, or young families playing with children and dogs.

The Chautauqua season runs every summer for nine weeks. Each week has a different theme; the week we went there, June 30 – July 7 of this year, the theme was American Identity. As happens every week, the day can start with denominational services at each chapel at 7:30. If you'd rather sleep in, the day can kick off for real at 9:15, when the week's guest chaplain hosts an interfaith Christian service in the Amphitheater (seats 5000). That week, the chaplain was the Rev David Gushee, head of a school of Christian ethics at Mercer University. The Rev Gushee was a dynamic, interesting speaker; a personal anecdote revealed that his mentor in divinity school was Glen Stassen, to whom our FCC adult education class has been exposed in their study of Just Peace. Small world!

The rest of each day is filled with talks, lectures, plays, shows and concerts. Among the speakers we listened to were David Brooks, the New York Times columnist; Jelani Cobb, a writer for the New Yorker; Robert Jones, head of the Public Religion Research Institute and author of The End of White Christian America; and Colin Woodard, author of American Character. Each of these speakers had something fascinating to say about America, its people, its religions, and its history. In particular, Woodard's thesis was that the traits, character, and outlook of America's original settlers—English, Dutch, French; planters and farmers; Anglicans, Catholics and Congregationalists—are still evident in eleven different American sub-nationalities. Our recent electoral history can be explained as shifting alliances among these eleven groups.

We all owe our anonymous friend a huge vote of thanks for making this opportunity more widely available. Please stay tuned! An application form is below. If you're interested, please fill it out and give it to Shannon, our new office administrator. A forthcoming article will seek to answer some of the questions you may have about travel and accommodations. Also, there is more information on the bulletin board in the hall, as well as copies of the application. Please contact Rich Gibson, Nancy Dickinson, Worth Hartman, Chuck Kiphart, or Pastor Sarah if you have any questions.

The First Congregational Church Foundation

The Foundation benefitted this month from contributions to two existing funds and the creation of a new one. These contributions strengthen our Church's basic financial structure and are greatly appreciated. [More information concerning the new fund will be published as it becomes active]. Kudos to the contributors! Others may wish to contribute to the Foundation or to remember it in their wills. For details, see Pastor Sarah or another member of the Foundation Board.

FCC's Got Solar!

The First Congregational Green Team hosted two Solar 101 talks by representatives from two different companies in May and June. Everyone I talked to came away excited or thrilled about the opportunity. As you know, we began a challenge campaign on June 10 to raise

\$60,000 for solar panels at our church. We're expecting to continue the drive until September 1. The challenge part was that I put up \$20,000 to see if the congregation would match it. The initial response. Has. Been. Wonderful! As of July 8th, we're halfway to our goal! We're at a point that we can get *something* installed on our roof this year, at least half of our total electrical power needs! Yay us! Please don't relax those check-writing, or wallet-reaching-for muscles, though; every penny you throw in for solar panels is effectively an investment in a cleaner, healthier planet, and an investment in reducing the cost of keeping First Congregational open—it's a return on your investment of about 8%, plus or minus.

I hope to be addressing the Trustees, the Council, and the congregation with even better news in the coming months. In the meantime, please consider a contribution to the solar panel fund! Put "solar panels" on the memo section of your check, or ask Pastor Sarah or Rich Gibson about additional options. Thank you! ---Rich Gibson, with The Green Team

Opportunity for Recycling on East Side of Town

Two dates: Saturday, August 11th from 10 a.m. - 2 pm. & Sunday, August 12 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm At Northminster Presbyterian Church located at 1660 Kessler Blvd, Indianapolis.

Now's your chance to purge those annoying things from your house, basement, and garage! Northminster deacons are sponsoring a two-day electronics recycling event on Saturday, August 11th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, August 12th from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Recycle Force will take anything with a cord: personal and office computers, consumer electronics, office equipment, telecom equipment, small appliances, refrigerators, freezers, toasters, microwaves, and more. There will be a \$20 fee for each television and anything with refrigerant. Questions? Contact Carol Frolich @ 317-840-5071. These items are always accepted the first Saturday of every month at Trader's Point, 7550 N. Lafayette Road from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Announcements

September Colony Submission Deadline

Please have your submissions sent to Shannon by **Wednesday, August 15.**

Editing Note for Church Directory

The area code listed for Linda and Lou Lupton's phone numbers in the Church Directory are incorrect. Rather than a 317 area code, all of their listed phone numbers should be a 765 area code. Please make that change in your copy.

Men's Lunch

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets at various restaurants in the greater Indianapolis area. They meet every other Thursday at 1 p.m. This month they will meet on August 9 and 23. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for information.

Women's Lunch Bunch

All women of the church are invited to get together once a month for lunch, friendship, and fellowship. This month we will meet on Thursday, August 23 at 11:45 a.m. For any questions or for information please contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or at carolsuech@sbcglobal.net.

Church Picnic & Sing-along on Saturday, Sep 8th, 4-7 pm (please note the date change)

The church picnic originally scheduled for Aug 25th has been rescheduled to Saturday, Sep 8th. It will be our fall kick-off to fun & faith, featuring food, games, and a singalong! Weather-permitting, we will be outdoors.

In preparation, please think of a song that you would like us to sing. The picnic will be a pitch-in, with the church providing the main dish. A sign-up sheet will be available in August for both your song and food ideas, or contact Care & Connection Chair, Wendy Baldwin.

Financial Update

When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

Here are the financial results through June 30, 2018.

When we give to the ministries of First Congregational UCC, we are serving those inside and outside our church community. As 1st Peter 4:10 says: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, with whatever gift each of you has received."

The FCC financial picture is improving. June was a very strong month, with income exceeding expenses by \$7,000. For the first six months, unrestricted income of \$132,600 exceeded expenses of \$130,800.

The numbers are affected by the timing of two large items – on the income side, a Foundation draw of \$18,900 in May (that had been budgeted for August), and on the expense side, a \$10,000 advance payment of employee benefits in April for the 3rd and part of 4th quarters. Excluding these items, income is exceeding our budget and expenses are running below budget (always a good thing!).

Bear in mind, however, that our budget requires Foundation draws of over \$56,000 to balance the budget for the year. It would be great to finish the year without having to draw the full amount from the Foundation.

- **Income of \$132,600** is \$21,700 better than budget. However, \$18,900 of that is the early draw from the Minister Fund. Excluding the draw, income is up \$2,800 vs. budget thanks to strong pledge receipts in May and June. Cash contributions are essentially equal to last year, with pledges \$5,000 below last year and non-pledge contributions \$5,000 above.
- **Expenses of \$130,800** are \$1,700 higher than budget. This is due entirely to the early payment of pastoral employee benefits, which will self-correct over the next 3-4 months. Excluding this, expenses are generally on or below budget, with major savings (\$4,700) in Administration and Operations.

Cash – the church's June 30 bank account balance of \$59,800 is significantly improved thanks to the Minister Fund draw, strong pledge receipts in May and June, and Solar Panel contributions.

Category	1/1/2018 Actual	- Budget	6/30/2018 Difference
INCOME	132,629	110,902	21,727
M. Unrestricted Contributions	132,629	110,902	21,727
M.01 Pledged Offerings	101,997	97,575	4,422
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	10,311	12,454	-2,143
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	-737	-737	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	0	0
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	18,920	0	18,920
M.06. Transfer from Youth Fund	1,610	1,610	0
M.07 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	528	0	528
EXPENSES	130,818	129,092	-1,726
A. Pastoral Leadership	64,896	58,473	-6,423
B. Worship & Faith	19,076	20,011	934
C. Care & Connections	429	300	-129
D. Witness & Welcome	339	432	93
E. Outreach & Service	10,374	11,000	626
F. Trustees	57	130	73
G. Administration & Operations	7,870	12,557	4,687
H. House & Grounds	25,065	22,980	-2,085
I. Miscellaneous	2,711	3,209	498
Net Difference:	1,811	-18,190	20,001

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer
lootens.jb@gmail.com